

rounder than our European species. I also had some Mammals, closely allied to the English Hedgehogs, but, my medicine-chest being stolen, had no chance or means of injecting them, without which they would not have kept.

"Any birds worth sending home have been already dispatched through my friend Mr. Newton; and I can only say that the country is rich enough to lead us to hope for more unknown as yet. The country west of the capital has never yet been explored.

"By the first opportunity I will forward specimens of the smaller Snakes, Chameleons, Lizards, and a small Bat, in spirits. The Chameleons I have seen attain a length of 18 inches.

"J. CALDWELL."

"Port Louis, December 4, 1862."

P.S. "I had several Aye-eyes (*Chiromys madagascariensis*) in my possession at Tamatave to send to Mauritius; but none arrived alive. One that died in Tamatave I skinned, and gave the skin to Captain Wilson, of H. M. S. 'Gorgon.' In so doing, I noticed what I have not yet seen in any of the published accounts, namely, that the *lower jaws* at the junction of the chin are only connected by a strong ligament, and do not, as in most other animals, virtually form one connected semicircle of bone. They play easily in a vertical direction, independently of each other, and, when the animal is gnawing, *alternately*. This accounts for the prodigious power of gnawing the Aye-aye possesses; for I have seen one cut through a strip of tin plate 2 inches wide, nailed over the door of its cage. As there is the usual vertical and lateral motion of the lower jaw, and this independent power superadded, its effect is not astonishing."

The following papers were read:—

1. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS DROMICIA, DISCOVERED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SYDNEY. BY GERARD KREFFT.

DROMICIA UNICOLOR, sp. nov.

*Dentition*.—Incisors  $\frac{3-3}{1-1}$ . Canines  $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$ . Præmolars  $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ . Molars  $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$ . = 36.

Of the grinders in the upper jaw, two are large and four cuspidate; but the last one is much smaller, of a triangular form, and furnished with three cusps only. The præmolars are three in number, of which the posterior one is large, and furnished with two fangs and two roots; the other two are rudimentary, with flat surfaces; there is an interspace between these teeth and the long canine; of the three incisors the anterior one is the largest.

In the lower jaw there are three true molars, with four cusps to each, but the last or posterior one smaller than the other two; these are preceded by a large two-rooted false molar (which, in one specimen examined, is furnished with one, in the other with two fangs),

the anterior præmolars (two) and the canine being small and rudimentary, with flat crowns; the single incisor is very long.

*Coloration.*—Fur of a uniform mouse-colour, lighter on the sides and beneath, with a blackish patch in front of the eye.

All the hairs are slate-grey at the base, tipped with yellowish at the back and sides, and with grey beneath; longer black hairs, tipped with white, are interspersed, except on the underside of the body. Bristles black to within one-third of the tip, which is white; a few long bristly black hairs in front and behind the eye. Tail somewhat longer than the body, prehensile, thin, showing every joint; slightly enlarged at the base, and gradually tapering; covered with a mixture of light-coloured and black hairs; apical portion, about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the tip, wide beneath.

	inches.
Length from tip to tip . . . . .	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tail . . . . .	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Face, to base of ear . . . . .	$\frac{7}{8}$
Ear . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$
Arm and hands . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$
Tarsi and toes . . . . .	$\frac{5}{8}$

This beautiful little creature was captured near St. Leonard's, North Shore, Sydney, feeding upon the blossoms of the *Banksiæ*, and lived a few days in captivity. In its habits it is nocturnal. The tongue of this *Dromicia* is well adapted for sucking the honey from the blossoms of the *Banksiæ* and *Eucalypti*, being furnished with a slight brush at the tip. This species differs from the *D. concinna* of Western Australia in being of a uniform dark colour without the white belly, and having the base of the tail slightly enlarged; it is of about the same size as *D. concinna*.

## 2. NOTICE OF A NEW AMERICAN FORM OF MARSUPIAL. BY R. F. TOMES, CORR. MEMB.

(Plate VIII.)

### Genus HYRACODON, Tomes.

General form somewhat slender. Tail as long as the head and body, tapering evenly to a fine point, Feet long, and furnished with an opposable thumb; nails somewhat long and pointed. Head rather long; muzzle pointed; ears of medium size, ovoid. *Upper incisors*: middle teeth simple, pointed, small, and in a vertical position; the following two large, thick, and short, but having a semi-acute point, which has a very backward direction; the following one, or fourth, similar, but very small; the fifth, or canine, separated from the preceding by a considerable interval, small, conical, acute, and nearly vertical in position; the two succeeding teeth nearly similar. *Lower incisors*: middle teeth long, nearly straight, and horizontal in position, as in the Shrews; the four following teeth more or less conical in form, closely packed together, and sloping